



Protecting Children by Strengthening Families

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# Media Release

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**For Immediate Release: August 3, 2009**

## **Safe Havens Saves Lives An Informative Event and Press Conference About Safe Havens for Infants**

Franklin County Children Services is holding a Safe Havens awareness event and press conference on Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. at Columbus Fire Station 10 (1096 West Broad Street). The event will highlight how Safe Havens saves the lives of babies. Safe Havens brochures and posters will be available.

The Safe Havens for Infants law was enacted eight years ago and allows infants up to 30 days old to be left with an officer at a law-enforcement agency, a medical worker at a fire or EMS station, or a medical worker at a hospital. If this is done, the birth parent can surrender the unharmed baby anonymously and avoid prosecution.

Central Ohio recently had two situations where newborns were abandoned. Although these infants survived their abandonment, leaving an infant can quickly turn tragic. Using the Safe Havens for Infants program helps to ensure that the child will be healthy and safe.

Children Services Executive Director Eric Fenner understands that having a baby can be scary, especially if the mother isn't ready to raise a child. "If you are in this situation, don't look for the quickest, nearest place to leave your infant," said Fenner. "Using the Safe Havens program helps to ensure that the child will be healthy and safe."

**Call the Safe Havens for Infants Hotline at 614-229-7200** if you or someone you know is at risk of abandoning a baby.

For further  
information  
contact

**Deborra  
Armstrong  
614-341-6085**

For more information and literature, call 614-341-6060 or go to  
[www.franklincountyohio.gov/children\\_services](http://www.franklincountyohio.gov/children_services).